

Good Questions mean...



- ✓ Able students who know the material get the answer right
- ✓ Challenged students who work hard get the answer right
- ✓ Students who do not prepare do NOT get the answer right



This means...



- ✓ The question should not be GUESSABLE
- ✓ The question should require specific knowledge to answer correctly
- ✓ You should not be able to apply LOGIC alone to get the answer correct



Good v Bad Questions



1. What is the acceleration of gravity?

- a. purple
- b. yellow submarine
- c. 9.8 meters per second
- d. the War of 1812.



Good v Bad Questions



2.a My favourite fruit is an:

- a) pear
- b) mango
- c) apple
- d) dog

2.b A fertile area in the desert in which the water table reaches the ground surface is called an

- a. mirage
- b. oasis
- c. water hole
- d. polder



Good v Bad Questions



3. What led to the formation of the States' Rights Party?

- a. The level of federal taxation
- b. The demand of states for the right to make their own laws
- c. The industrialization of the South
- d. The corruption of federal legislators on the issue of state taxation



Good v Bad Questions



4. Some scientists believe that Pluto is:
- a. an escaped moon of Neptune
 - b. usually the most distant planet in the solar system
 - c. the name of Mickey Mouse's dog
 - d. all of the above



Good v Bad Questions



5. Polysaccharides

- a. are made up of thousands of smaller units called monosaccharides
- b. are NOT found in the aloe vera leaf
- c. are created during photosynthesis
- d. can be described by the chemical formula:
CHHOH



Good v Bad Questions



6. Paul Muldoon, an Irish postmodern poet who uses experimental and playful language, uses which poetic genre in "Why Brownlee Left"?

- a. sonnet
- b. elegy
- c. narrative poem
- d. dramatic monologue
- e. haiku



Good v Bad Questions



7. As the level of fertility approaches its nadir, what is the most likely ramification for the citizenry of a developing nation?

- a. a decrease in the labour force participation rate of women
- b. a dispersing effect on population concentration
- c. a downward trend in the youth dependency ratio
- d. a broader base in the population pyramid
- e. an increased infant mortality rate



Good v Bad Questions



8. Which of the following is not a symptom of osteoporosis?

- a. decreased bone density
- b. frequent bone fractures
- c. raised body temperature
- d. lower back pain



Good v Bad Questions



9. Theorists of pluralism have asserted which of the following?

- a. The maintenance of democracy requires a large middle class.
- b. The maintenance of democracy requires autonomous centres of countervailing power.
- c. The maintenance of democracy requires the existence of a multiplicity of religious groups.
- d. The maintenance of democracy requires a predominantly urban population.
- e. The maintenance of democracy requires the separation of governmental powers.



References

Designing effective objective test questions: an introductory workshop – CAA Centre

<http://www.caacentre.ac.uk/dldocs/otghdout.pdf>

Writing Multiple-Choice Test Items – Jerard kehoe – *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*

<http://homepage.mac.com/astronomyteacher/dvhs/pdfs/multiplechoice.pdf>